

REMARKS

All of the previous claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The current claims at issue are: Claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-21, 33-34, 37-44 and 46-47. Claim 47 has been added. Referring to the previous claims, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 12, 21, 42, 43, and 46 have been amended; and the other claims remain unchanged. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

Response to Rejection of Claims

Reference is first made to independent claims 1, 21 and 42. On page 20 of the Office Action the Examiner indicated that amendment of these claims to reflect a "subset" limitation would overcome the rejection of the prior art. These claims have been amended to accomplish the inclusion of the above-noted limitation. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's kind suggestion of the change.

Subsequent amendments have been performed as necessary in the dependent claims to provide consistency in the language of the claims.

Furthermore, since claims 2-8, 10-18, 20, 33, 34, and 37-41 are dependent on claim 1 they are patentable as well for at least the reason of dependency. Similarly, claims 43-44, 46 and 47 are dependent on claim 42; and, thus, are allowable for at least the reason of dependency.

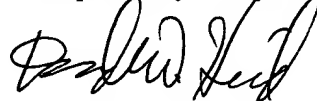
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed. Should any other action be contemplated by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that he contact the undersigned at (408) 392-9250 to discuss the application.

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Respectfully submitted,



David W. Heid
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 25,875

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPherson, Kwok, Chen &
Heid LLP

2033 Gateway Place
Suite 400
San Jose, CA 95110
(408)-392-9520
FAX (408)-392-9262